REMARKS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Official Action dated November 2, 2004.

The Examiner has objected to the claims 1-2 and 4 because of informalities. Claims 1-7 have been canceled and replaced with new claims 8-9 to overcome the objection.

Further, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lin et al (U.S. 6669362).

Moreover, the Examiner has rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of Kim (U.S. 20030012360).

Furthermore, the Examiner has rejected claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of Woods (U.S. 6087936).

In addition, the Examiner has rejected claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of Higgins et al (U.S. 2004008290).

Further, the Examiner has rejected claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin view of Bitko (U.S. 4099040).

Claims 1-7 have been canceled and replaced with new claims 8-9 in order to overcome the rejections. However, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn in light of the following reasons.

The present invention resides in an electronic thermometer which utilizes an invented direction sensing element to provide an upright display regardless of whether the user uses the left hand or right hand to hold the thermometer.

Lin et al (U.S. 6669362), the first reference cited by the Examiner, discloses a two-way display infrared thermometer which comprises a main body, an infrared wave-collecting device fro measuring temperature having a sensor disposed at a bottom thereof, a liquid crystal display disposed on a surface of the main body to

display the measured temperature and a direction detection device disposed in the main body and connected to a control circuit to automatically detect the horizontal state of the main body so as to send a signal to the control circuit. Nevertheless, the Lin et al reference is related to an infrared thermometer, while the present invention concerns an electronic thermometer. In other words, the Lin et al reference is different from the present invention in application. Further, the Lin et al reference is designed for use on a table top, whereas the present invention is designed for enabling a user to us his left or right hand to hold the thermometer. Further, this reference fails to disclose an electronic thermometer comprising a control circuit and a directionally adjustable LCD display, said display being provided with identifiable signals, wherein the thermometer is provided with a direction sensing element, said direction sensing element being a mechanism having a gold foil provided on a circuit board of the thermometer, a first end of said gold foil making use of a through hole on the circuit board to connect with a first display circuit, a top portion of said through hole being provided with a fixed rail to enable a ball to roll along the fixed rail, said ball being positioned at a second end of said gold foil when said thermometer is not inverted thereby causing said through hole and the display circuit not to be in conduction, but said ball will move along said fixed rail to fall into said through hole when said thermometer is inverted thereby causing said display circuit to generate a directional signal; whereby the thermometer, under normal operating direction, is an upright position facing the user, and if the thermometer is reversed, the direction sensing element due to gravity produces a directional signal and the control circuit of the thermometer receives the signal which immediately outputs to the display to produce an upright display signal to the user. Hence, this reference can be clearly distinguished from the present invention.

Kim (U.S. 20030012360), the second reference cited by the Examiner, teaches a

switch control that can be a combination of the number of times keys (switch) is depressed or the duration of time the key is depressed. Nonetheless, this reference still fails to disclose or teach an electronic thermometer comprising a control circuit and a directionally adjustable LCD display, said display being provided with identifiable signals, wherein the thermometer is provided with a direction sensing element, said direction sensing element being a mechanism having a gold foil provided on a circuit board of the thermometer, a first end of said gold foil making use of a through hole on the circuit board to connect with a first display circuit, a top portion of said through hole being provided with a fixed rail to enable a ball to roll along the fixed rail, said ball being positioned at a second end of said gold foil when said thermometer is not inverted thereby causing said through hole and the display circuit not to be in conduction, but said ball will move along said fixed rail to fall into said through hole when said thermometer is inverted thereby causing said display circuit to generate a directional signal; whereby the thermometer, under normal operating direction, is an upright position facing the user, and if the thermometer is reversed, the direction sensing element due to gravity produces a directional signal and the control circuit of the thermometer receives the signal which immediately outputs to the display to produce an upright display signal to the user. Thus, this reference is in no way similar to the present invention.

Woods (U.S. 6087936), the third reference cited by the Examiner, discloses a vibration sensor which comprises a housing having a floor sloped downward toward its center and a sidewall defining a chamber, a plurality of spaced electrically-conductive contacts positioned above the floor, a plurality of spaced electrically-conductive elements interconnecting the contacts, an electrode positioned near the center of the chamber and spaced from the contacts, and an electrically-conductive ball positioned within the chamber for movement therein.

As the previously cited references, the Woods reference does not teach or suggest an electronic thermometer comprising a control circuit and a directionally adjustable LCD display, said display being provided with identifiable signals, wherein the thermometer is provided with a direction sensing element, said direction sensing element being a mechanism having a gold foil provided on a circuit board of the thermometer, a first end of said gold foil making use of a through hole on the circuit board to connect with a first display circuit, a top portion of said through hole being provided with a fixed rail to enable a ball to roll along the fixed rail, said ball being positioned at a second end of said gold foil when said thermometer is not inverted thereby causing said through hole and the display circuit not to be in conduction, but said ball will move along said fixed rail to fall into said through hole when said thermometer is inverted thereby causing said display circuit to generate a directional signal; whereby the thermometer, under normal operating direction, is an upright position facing the user, and if the thermometer is reversed, the direction sensing element due to gravity produces a directional signal and the control circuit of the thermometer receives the signal which immediately outputs to the display to produce an upright display signal to the user. Similarly, this reference fails to disclose an electronic thermometer comprising a control circuit and a directionally adjustable LCD display, said display being provided with identifiable signals, wherein the thermometer is provided with a direction sensing element, said direction sensing element being a mechanism having a gold foil provided on a circuit board of the thermometer, a first end of said gold foil making use of a through hole on the circuit board to connect with a first display circuit, a top portion of said through hole being provided with a fixed rail to enable a ball to roll along the fixed rail, said ball being positioned at a second end of said gold foil when said thermometer is not inverted thereby causing said through hole and the display circuit not to be in conduction, but

said ball will move along said fixed rail to fall into said through hole when said thermometer is inverted thereby causing said display circuit to generate a directional signal; whereby the thermometer, under normal operating direction, is an upright position facing the user, and if the thermometer is reversed, the direction sensing element due to gravity produces a directional signal and the control circuit of the thermometer receives the signal which immediately outputs to the display to produce an upright display signal to the user. Consequently, this reference is completely different from the present invention.

Higgins et al (U.S. 20040084290), the fourth reference cited by the Examiner, teaches a tilt sensor which comprises a first insulative housing member, a second insulative housing member, means for aligning the first and second contact portions to each other, and a conductive member disposed within the cavity. However, the Higgins et al reference fails to disclose or teach a direction sensing element which is a mechanism having a gold foil provided on a circuit board of the thermometer, a first end of said gold foil making use of a through hole on the circuit board to connect with a first display circuit, a top portion of said through hole being provided with a fixed rail to enable a ball to roll along the fixed rail, said ball being positioned at a second end of said gold foil when said thermometer is not inverted thereby causing said through hole and the display circuit not to be in conduction, but said ball will move along said fixed rail to fall into said through hole when said thermometer is inverted thereby causing said display circuit to generate a directional signal. Furthermore, the Higgins et al reference does not disclose an electronic thermometer which, under normal operating direction, is in an upright position facing the user, and if the thermometer is reversed, the direction sensing element due to gravity produces a directional signal and the control circuit of the thermometer receives the signal which immediately outputs to the display to produce an upright display signal to the

user. As a consequence, this reference is irrelevant to the present invention.

Bitko (U.S. 4099040), the fifth reference cited by the Examiner, discloses a tilt switch which comprises a gravity responsive conductive ball, housing means defining an enclosure for the gravity responsive conductive ball, inwardly extending annular shelf means in the enclosure adjacent one end of the housing means, means defining a depression within the enclosure adjacent one end of the housing means and surrounded by the annular shelf. Nevertheless, this reference fails to disclose an electronic thermometer comprising a control circuit and a directionally adjustable LCD display, said display being provided with identifiable signals, wherein the thermometer is provided with a direction sensing element, said direction sensing element being a mechanism having a gold foil provided on a circuit board of the thermometer, a first end of said gold foil making use of a through hole on the circuit board to connect with a first display circuit, a top portion of said through hole being provided with a fixed rail to enable a ball to roll along the fixed rail, said ball being positioned at a second end of said gold foil when said thermometer is not inverted thereby causing said through hole and the display circuit not to be in conduction, but said ball will move along said fixed rail to fall into said through hole when said thermometer is inverted thereby causing said display circuit to generate a directional signal; whereby the thermometer, under normal operating direction, is an upright position facing the user, and if the thermometer is reversed, the direction sensing element due to gravity produces a directional signal and the control circuit of the thermometer receives the signal which immediately outputs to the display to produce an upright display signal to the user. Hence, this reference can be clearly distinguished from the present invention.

Accordingly, even if the disclosures of the cited references are combined together, the combined disclosure of the cited references still fails to teach each and every

element of the claimed invention and so the subject matter sought to be patented as a whole would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The applicant has reviewed the prior art as cited by the Examiner but not used in the rejection and believes that the new claims clearly and distinctly patentably define over such prior art.

It is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed in condition of allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Signature

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